

## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. NO.: 10/049,812 CONFIRMATION NO.: 7975  
APPLICANT: Eric J. Sprunk TC/ART UNIT: 2436  
FILED: December 27, 2001 EXAMINER: Hoffman, Brandon S.  
TITLE: MULTIPLE LEVEL PUBLIC KEY HIERARCHY FOR PERFORMANCE AND HIGH SECURITY

## REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

*This reply is being filed electronically*

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 16, 2009 concerning the above-identified application. An extension of time to respond is hereby requested, and fee authorization is submitted concurrently herewith. This reply is provided in response to the Office Action in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.111. Applicant submits the following amendment and remarks and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejections made in the Office Action and to allow the claims to issue.

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.